

ALGAE BLOOM IN HUNTINGTON HARBOUR

Some residents and community members have asked about the recent algae bloom in Huntington Harbour. There is some odor and pockets of thick green algae visible in several sections across the waterways of the Harbour. The largest concentrations were found to be near the mid-channel and the harbour channel. Algae has also been found in various areas of the Bolsa Chica wetlands.

In response to concerns regarding the algae bloom, City of Huntington Beach staff have been in contact with Orange County Public Health, Cal State Long Beach Environmental Science Department and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to assist in assessing the situation. Following their assessment, monitoring and testing of the Algae ***they have confirmed that there are no safety hazards or degradation of water quality associated with the algae.***

The City of Huntington Beach will continue to work with our partner agencies, monitor the affected areas and provide any additional information as it becomes available. Frequently asked questions include:

What is it?

It is a naturally occurring algae. *Ulva intestinalis* is a green alga in the family Ulvaceae, known by the common names of sea lettuce, green bait weed, gutweed, and grass kelp.

Why is it here?

Outbreak mechanisms are not fully understood.

Ecology: *Ulva intestinalis* occurs in many different habitat types and takes many different forms. It has been recorded in fresh to saline waters from ditches, pools, rockpools, canals, moorlands, and bedrock.

Are there any safety concerns?

Water quality and air quality measurements and monitoring by Orange County Health Care Agency indicate there are no immediate hazards. It is recommended that direct skin contact with algae be avoided as it could cause irritation.

How long will it be here? How do we get rid of it?

Actual time to dissipate varies. In past blooms, the patches subside prior to the summer season. As it is a naturally occurring organism, it will also dissipate over time without intervention

Is it safe to touch?

Avoid if possible. Use gloves as a barrier protection.